

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 13 and 18 have been amended to provide proper antecedents. Similar corrections have been in claims 5 and 6.

Briefly, the subject patent application pertains to a novel dvd disc having spirals oriented in opposite directions on opposite sides of the disc. More particularly, the present invention pertains to a method of reading such a disc wherein the disc is read in sequence from one side to the other without turning the disc over or stopping its rotation. The specification describes several sequences in which data can be arranged and the sequences in which this data could be read.

The Examiner has rejected some of the claims as being anticipated by the Ito reference, citing Figs. 2 and 4. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Ito discloses a disc having four layers, all disposed on the same side of a disc. In the present invention, a disc is described that has data layers on one side, data layers on the other side and a method of reading data sequentially from the disc. Ito fails to describe or even suggest such a disc and therefore its contents are immaterial.

The Examiner has further rejected some of the claims as being obvious over Thompson in view of O'Hara. Thompson discloses several standard multi-layered DVD discs. As is well known in the art, these discs are normally read on side at a time, with the discs flipped over to allow one to read

both sides. The Examiner relies on O'Hara to teach a system in which data can be read from both sides of a disc. However, in order to accomplish this result, O'Hara proposes a completely different arrangement and method than the present invention. First, O'Hara presents a disc that is completely symmetrical in the sense that the two sides of the discs can be read with either side being on top. Second, O'Hara modifies the discs by reversing the order in which data is read on one side. As clearly illustrated in Figs. 4-9, as the disc is rotated, data is read forward in one direction but backward in the other direction. In other words, the player in O'Hara reads data from the lead-out area to the lead-in area. This is contrary to the language of the present claims which clearly state that data is always read from the lead-in to the lead-out areas. The Examiner's statement that O'Hara teaches a system in which "the necessity of reproducing data from one of the sides in a reverse sequence" is erroneous. The cited passage from col. 2 explains that in the prior art even if a two-laser system was built successfully, "the apparatus could make use of a set of address signals only on one disc surfaces of the double-sided optical disc at a time." In other words, this passage explains not that the data reproduction did not need to be reversed, but that prior art devices could not read data in a reverse order. O'Hara provides a solution to this problem by providing an optical system that can read data even in the reverse direction—just the opposite what the Examiner interprets the reference to teach.


A further distinction between the present invention (as presented in some of the claims such as 22 and 25) is that the data is read either using a

single laser that is switched from one side to the other, or with two laser heads, one disposed along each side. O'Hara teaches away from either configuration. Instead, O'Hara uses a single laser head and a system of beam-splitters and mirrors to direct the laser at the two sides of a disc. Thus, O'Hara fails to teach switching a laser head from one side to the other. Moreover, O'Hara explicitly teaches away from the two-headed configuration by arguing that such an arrangement is undesirable.

In summary, the references cited do not teach the claimed invention and therefore the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted  
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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 4 has been amended as requested by the Examiner. More particularly, “the floating Y above box 222” has been eliminated and an “N” has been added to the left box 204.

Attachment: One substitute drawings’ sheet, Fig. 4.